

Everglades

NATIONAL PARK



1998 Annual Report

CREDITS

Cover photos from top left: visitors on the Anhinga Trail; a River otter, uncommon in freshwater marshes, but sometimes seen at the Anhinga Trail and Shark Valley; the endangered Cape Sable Seaside Sparrow; an American alligator sunning near the Anhinga Trail; a tangle of mangroves in the wilderness backcountry.

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The 1998 Annual Report and general park information are available on our web site at **www.nps.gov/ever**. These materials may also be obtained by contacting:

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"These islands are, like the saw grass, the particular feature of the Glades. Small or great jungles, they loom out of the brownness of the saw grass in humped solid shapes, like green whales and gray-green hangars and domes and green clouds on the horizon."

Marjory Stoneman
Douglas
The Everglades-River of
Grass, 1947

A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



Superintendent Ring addresses guests at a memorial tribute to Marjory Stoneman Douglas, held in the park on May 23, 1998

We are pleased to submit this annual report for Everglades National Park. 1998 continued a record of progress in meeting the challenges and opportunities of preserving this great natural treasure for the benefit of current and future generations of Americans.

The park continues to be a leader in implementing the principles of performance based management, in order to assure that our efforts are effective in meeting the mission and goals set forth for the park and that our investments are wisely made on behalf of the American people. This report outlines our major mission and long term goals, as well as our accomplishments over the year in working toward their achievement.

Visitation continues to increase, following the post-Hurricane Andrew drop, with clear economic benefits for our local community neighbors. Our fee demonstration project has yielded a unique source of funding to address maintenance back logs, thus leading to an enhanced and safer experience for all our visitors.

Strong public concern and support from the people of Florida and the nation remains the foundation on which efforts to restore and protect the Park and the greater Everglades ecosystem depend now and in the future. I am pleased to report continued progress in those efforts. Support by the Administration and the Congress produced sustained appropriations that are vital for completion of the park's expansion in East Everglades for restoration of water flows through the northeast Shark Slough. Additional funds were made available for the Federal/State partnership to acquire vital buffer areas adjacent to park boundaries, and elsewhere in the ecosystem to increase water storage and filtration capacity.

Construction funds for changes to the water management system to restore hydrology in the park were also provided, as were special science support funds to make sure restoration proceeds based on the best available information and knowledge. The major long term design of the regional water management system was released in draft form. Due to be presented to the Congress in July, 1999, this comprehensive approach may well represent our last best chance to assure a healthy functioning Everglades for the future.

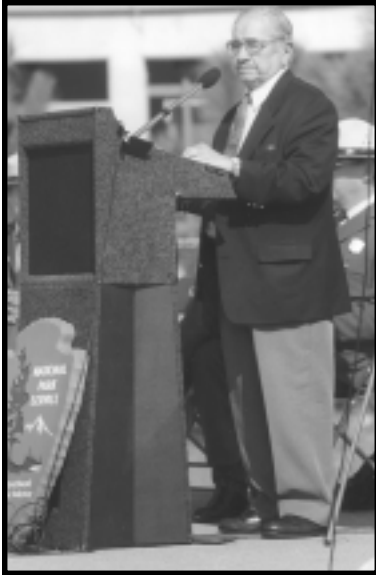
The need for the restoration was dramatically demonstrated in early 1998, when emergency actions had to be taken to limit the impacts of artificially high water in breeding areas of the endangered Cape Sable Seaside Sparrow. Until the system can be structurally and operationally changed through restoration projects now underway, park wildlife may face similar perils in the future.

Sadly, 1998 also had us say farewell to three great champions of the Everglades. Marjory Stoneman Douglas died in May at the age of 108. In accordance with her wishes, her ashes were scattered within the park's wilderness recently named in her honor. In November, former Congressman Dante Fascell died. During his long years of public service, he worked tirelessly to complete the park's boundaries, restore the Shark Slough, and to establish Biscayne National Park, Big Cypress National Preserve, and the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary. Florida's Governor, Lawton Chiles, passed away in December. Restoration of the Everglades became one of the top priorities of his administration.

We respectfully dedicate this report to the memory of these three great friends of Everglades National Park.

Richard G. Ring
Superintendent

IN MEMORY



Dante B. Fascell

March 3, 1917 to November 28, 1998



Marjory Stoneman Douglas

April 7, 1890 to May 14, 1998



Lawton Chiles

April 3, 1930 to December 12, 1998

PARK PURPOSE AND SIGNIFICANCE

Everglades National Park is a public park for the benefit and enjoyment of the people. It is set apart as a permanent wilderness preserving essential primitive conditions, including the natural abundance, diversity, behavior, and ecological integrity of the unique flora and fauna.

It is nationally and internationally important because it:



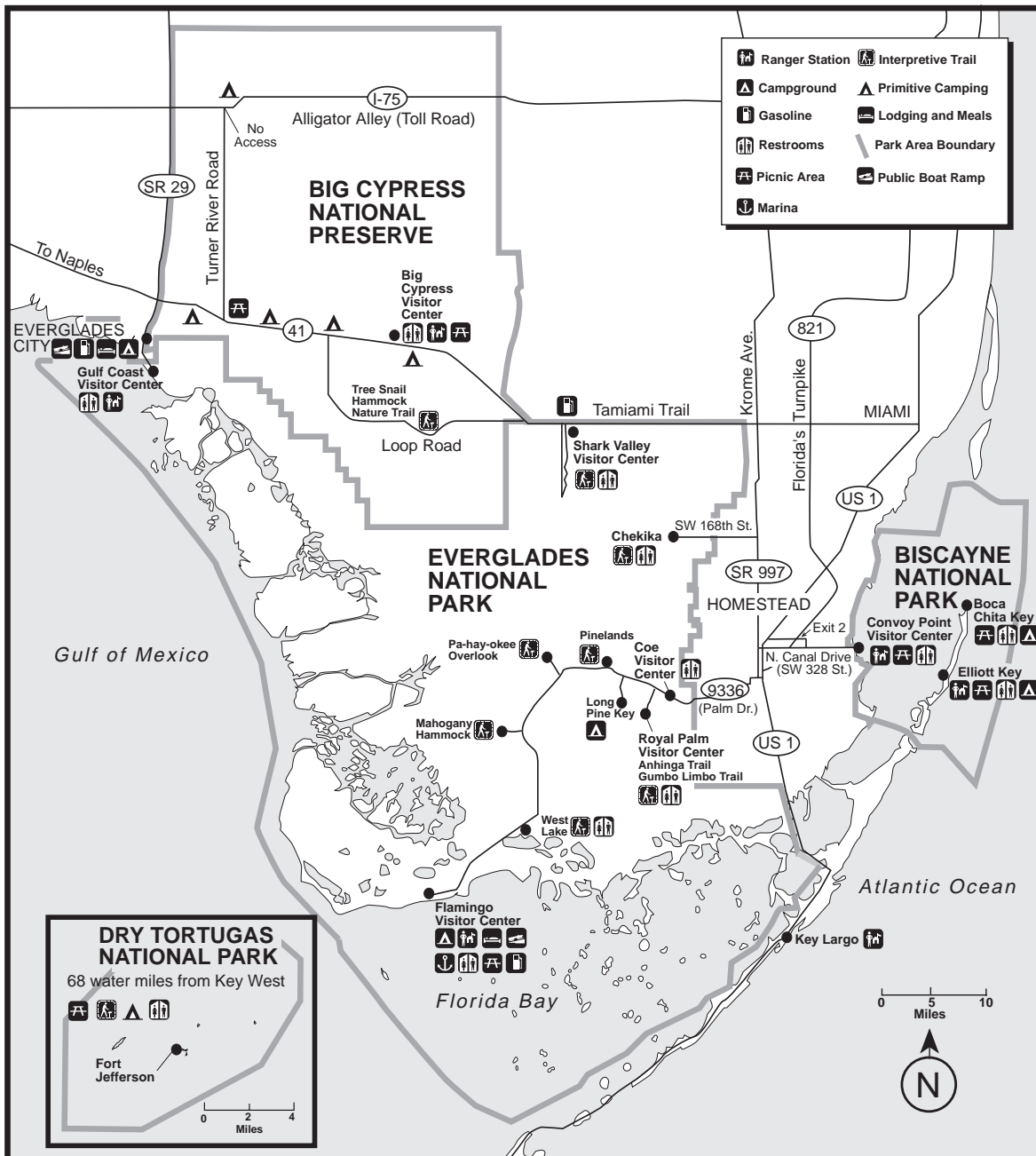
- qualifies as a world heritage site, a biosphere reserve, a wetland of international significance, and an outstanding Florida water
- supports the largest stand of protected sawgrass prairie in North America
- serves as a crucial water recharge area for South Florida through the Biscayne aquifer
- provides sanctuary for 14 threatened and endangered species
- supports the largest mangrove ecosystem in the western hemisphere
- constitutes the largest designated wilderness in the Southeast that provides foraging habitat and breeding grounds for migratory wading birds
- contains important cultural resources and is the homeland of the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida
- functions as a nationally significant estuarine complex in Florida Bay, providing a major nursery ground that supports sport and commercial fishing
- comprises the only subtropical reserve on the North American continent, presenting a major ecological transition zone where diverse temperate and tropical species mingle
- functions as a major corridor and stopover for neotropical migrants in the South Florida ecosystem
- encompasses resources that directly support significant economic activities
- engenders inspiration for major literary and artistic works
- offers a place where recreational, educational, and inspirational activities occur in a unique subtropical wilderness.

Photos from top:

1. Visitors experience the Everglades on a ranger-guided "slough slog".
2. Roseate spoonbill
3. The Shark River

PARK MAP

Everglades National Park is one of four areas of the National Park System in South Florida. The park encompasses 1,509,000 acres, stretching more than sixty miles north to south and forty miles east to west. It holds the largest expanse of wilderness east of the Rocky Mountains; 1,296,500 acres of this vast national park are protected as designated wilderness.



PARK FACILITIES

"Everglades National Park ...shall be permanently reserved as a wilderness, and no development of the project or plan for the entertainment of visitors shall be undertaken which will interfere with the preservation intact of the unique flora and fauna and the essential primitive natural conditions now prevailing in this area."

Everglades National Park Enabling Legislation, 1934

Since the establishment of Everglades National Park, the development of visitor facilities has progressed according to a concept of preserving the park's wilderness qualities and keeping developmental encroachments to a minimum. This concept is consistently reflected in the park's legislation, planning and management. Developed areas reflect, and are limited to patterns already existing in 1934.

The original footprint of park development was established in the 1950's and early 1960's and was complete by 1964. As a result of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and other environmental legislation enacted in the early 1970's, there has been greater regulation of resource impacts from park construction. While park facilities have been periodically upgraded to meet changing standards and codes, there has been a consistent focus on minimizing development. Sensitive planning, design and construction ensure park facilities are appropriate, sustainable and of the highest quality. Today, the developed areas remain basically unchanged from the 1960's, occupying "less than 1,200 acres...", less than 0.1% of the 1.4 million acres contained within the original park boundary.

Rehabilitation of existing facilities at Loop Road and planning for the same at Flamingo and the East Everglades emphasizes meeting today's life-safety codes, accessibility concerns, and modern expectations, while limiting the development to previously disturbed areas. Where possible, disturbed areas will be restored to their natural state.

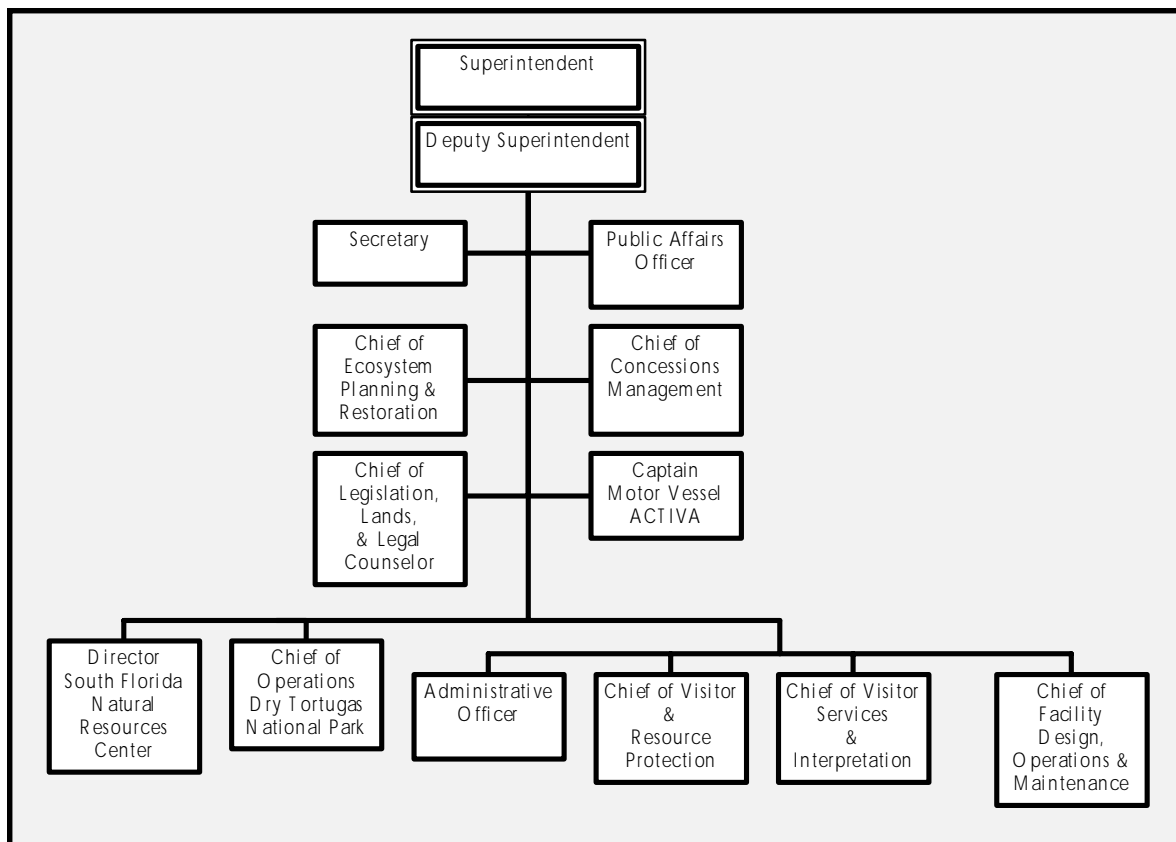
DEVELOPMENT AND FACILITIES

- 82 miles of surfaced roads
- 156 miles of trails (including canoe trails)
- 5 miles of surfaced trails
- 2 miles of elevated boardwalk trails:
 - Anhinga Trail, Pa-hay-okee Overlook, Mahogany Hammock, West Lake, Eco Pond, Shark Valley
- 160 educational signs and exhibits
- 3 campgrounds:
 - Flamingo, 295 sites
 - Long Pine Key, 108 sites
 - Chekika, 20 sites
- 48 designated backcountry campsites
- 3 fee collection stations:
 - Main Entrance, Chekika, and Shark Valley
- 301 buildings:
 - 5 visitor centers
 - headquarters
 - maintenance and utility buildings
 - 2 research facilities
 - 2 environmental education camps
 - housing for park and concession employees
- 3 concessioners:
 - Flamingo Lodge, Marina, and Outpost Resort**
motel and housekeeping cottages; restaurant; gift shop; marina and store; rental boats, houseboats, and canoes; sight-seeing boat tours.
 - Shark Valley Tram Tours**
sight-seeing tram tours, rental bicycles, snacks.
 - Everglades National Park Boat Tours**
sight-seeing boat tours, rental canoes, gift shop, snacks.

The development of visitor facilities, such as the Shark Valley Visitor Center and tram tour office, has progressed according to a concept of preserving the park's wilderness qualities and keeping developmental encroachments to a minimum.

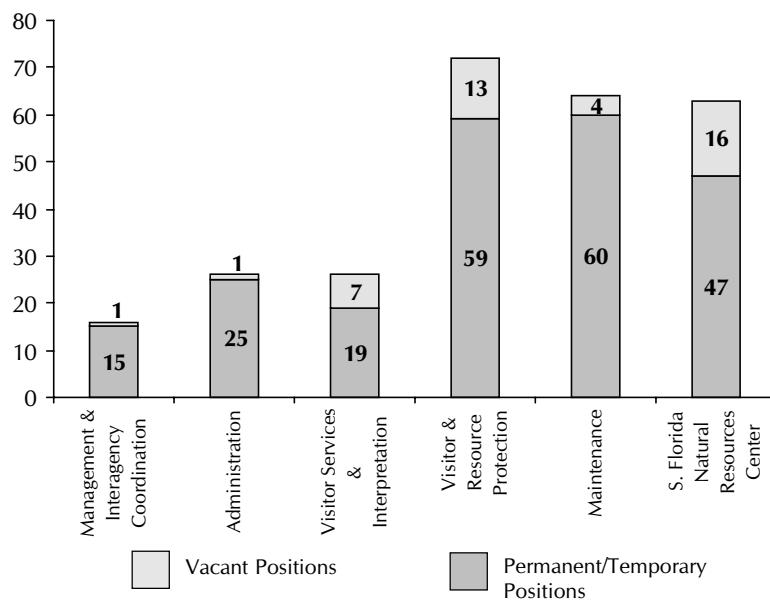


PARK ORGANIZATION



TOTAL EMPLOYEES - BY DIVISION

As of September 30, 1998



Rachel Denny, Personnel Office Administrative Support Aid, responds to an inquiry about job opportunities with the National Park Service.

SOUTH FLORIDA ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION

The National Park Service plays a vital role in efforts to restore the South Florida Ecosystem, an 11,000 square mile region extending from the Kissimmee River near Orlando to the Florida Keys. Originally a vast expanse of wetland, pineland, wilderness, mangroves, coastal islands and coral reefs; this is now one of the continent's most highly populated and manipulated regions. The four national park units of South Florida protect millions of acres that embody some of the best and most complete examples of the natural and cultural history of South Florida.

The natural systems of the four parks also sustain South Florida's quality of life and economy. They are vital to the survival of fish, wildlife and recreational areas that support the region's \$13 billion annual tourist industry. The Everglades provide and protect the fresh water that enables people to live and do business in much of this spectacular area. It is the source of drinking water for 5 million people and sustains a productive agricultural industry. Today, these parks are among the most threatened in the nation due to external development and population pressures. Their survival is linked to efforts to restore portions of the larger ecosystem as well as its original functions and to lay the basis for a sustainable future for the region.

PARTNERSHIPS FOR RESTORATION

The good news is the growing awareness of all interests in the region that there are limits imposed by nature on the volume and manner of growth. A strong public and private partnership is emerging to address the immediate needs of the natural system and to explore ways of achieving and maintaining a sustainable future for South Florida.

Building on over 10 years commitment by the State of Florida to "Save Our Everglades", the **South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force** and **Working Group** coordinates and develops consistent policies, strategies, plans, programs, and priorities for restoring the South Florida ecosystem. The Working Group was expanded in the last year to include greater participation by local governments. The **Governor's Commission for a Sustainable South Florida**, established in 1994 to "make recommendations for achieving a healthy Everglades

ecosystem that can coexist and be mutually supportive of a sustainable South Florida economy and quality communities," makes recommendations to the governor and serves as an advisory body to the Task Force. The **National Park Service** actively participates in the ecosystem restoration efforts, as members of the Working Group, the Governor's Commission, and other restoration groups. NPS staff are involved in establishing goals for ecosystem restoration, evaluating the design and implementation of restoration projects, conducting scientific research, and monitoring conditions in the field to measure progress. Through ongoing interpretive and outreach programs, the South Florida parks are also committed to educating the public about the need for restoring the ecosystem.

SOUTH FLORIDA ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PARTNERS

-Task Force-

Department of the Interior (TF Chair)
 Department of Agriculture
 Department of the Army
 Department of Commerce
 Department of Justice
 Department of Transportation
 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
 Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida
 Seminole Tribe of Florida
 State of Florida

-Working Group-

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (WG Chair)
 Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratory/NOAA
 Bureau of Indian Affairs
 Department of Justice
 Federal Highway Administration
 Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary/NOAA
 National Marine Fisheries Service/NOAA
 Natural Resources Conservation Service
 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
 U.S. National Park Service
 U.S. Geological Survey
 USGS, Biological Resources Division
 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
 Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida
 Seminole Tribe of Florida
 Office of the Governor of Florida
 Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Affairs
 Florida Department of Community Affairs
 Florida Department of Environmental Protection
 Florida Game and Freshwater Fish Commission
 Florida Department of Transportation
 Governor's Commission for a Sustainable South Florida
 South Florida Water Management District
 Broward County Department of Natural Resources
 Dade County Department of Environmental Resources
 Palm Beach County Planning Department
 Palm Beach County Water Utilities Department
 Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council

RESTORATION GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

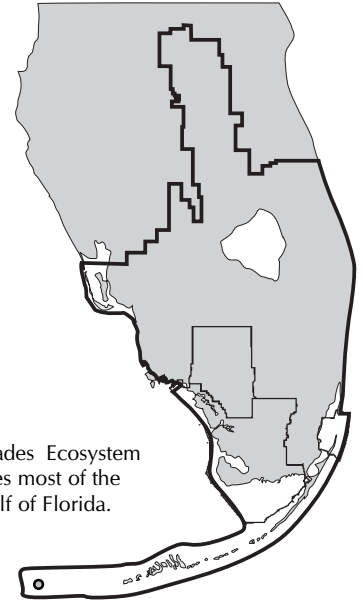
GET THE WATER RIGHT

- Reestablish natural hydrologic functions in wetlands while providing for the water resource needs of the built environment
- Maximize the system's hydrologic interconnection
- Reduce the amount of water leaving the system, or lost to tide.
- Decentralize the Water Conservation (WCAs)
- Replace the system's lost water storage capacity
- Minimize seepage of groundwater from the natural system into urban and agricultural areas
- Prevent point source and non-point source pollution from agricultural and urban runoff

RESTORE AND ENHANCE THE NATURAL SYSTEM

- Maximize spatial extent of wetlands and other habitats by acquiring land needed for restoration purposes
- Recover threatened and endangered species
- Restore natural biological diversity and natural vegetation communities
- Halt and reverse the invasion of exotic plant and animals
- Reestablish sustainable wading bird populations and colonies
- Reestablish wildlife corridors
- Restore natural estuarine and coastal productivity
- Increase hard coral cover on reefs

The Everglades Ecosystem encompasses most of the southern half of Florida.



TRANSFORM THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

- Revitalize urban core areas to reduce outward migration of suburbs and improve the quality of life in core areas
- Implement best management practices in urban and agricultural areas to improve water quality and reduce water consumption
- Link agricultural and urban growth management with ecosystem management

RESTORATION IN ACTION - ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 1998

- In October, a multiagency planning team completed the *Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for the Central and Southern Florida Project Comprehensive Review Study*, which outlines the water management system modifications needed to restore the Everglades ecosystem, while still providing water and flood control to urban and agricultural sectors.
- The Governor's Commission for a Sustainable South Florida (GCSSF) completed its assessment of the Restudy Comprehensive Plan alternatives and provided 35 recommendations, based on stakeholder issues and concerns, to the Corps of Engineers and the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD). The consensus-based set of recommendations are contained in *The Interim Report on the C & SF Project Restudy* of July 24, 1998.
- The South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Working Group:
 - organized a social science symposium to gather recommendations for applying social science research to land management and ecosystem restoration planning, implementation, and monitoring. The results will be used to build a social science action plan for south Florida;
 - established a task team to develop a comprehensive, interagency strategy for eliminating and/or controlling invasive exotic plants;
 - developed a public outreach and participation strategy designed to attain broad-based public understanding and long-term support for a restored ecosystem and a sustainable south Florida;
 - formulated recommendations on the draft plan for the redesign of the Central and Southern water management system;
 - established three multiagency, multidisciplinary task teams to develop near-term action plans for improving water quality in the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee Estuaries, and Lake Okeechobee;

- initiated development of an Integrated Strategic Plan for a Sustainable South Florida. The Working Group's charter directs it to develop an integrated plan for restoring and sustaining the South Florida ecosystem describing the applications and linkages among governmental programs or projects that will achieve shared ecosystem goals in the region. Efforts to accomplish the goals of restoring and enhancing the natural system, and transforming the built environment are outlined in the *Success in the Making* report of April 1998. The final Integrated Strategic Plan will be completed in FY 2000.
- On November 12, 1998 the SFWMD Governing Board unanimously approved full buy out of the residential area in the 8½ Square Mile area. The Board determined purchase of the land to be the most cost effective alternative for meeting restoration objectives of the Modified Water Deliveries Project.
- The National Park Service (NPS) acquired approximately 19,000 acres in the East Everglades Addition to Everglades National Park. Congress authorized the addition of 109,000 acres to the park in 1989. Acquisition of the remaining 47,000 acres must occur before the Modified Water Deliveries Project can be implemented.
- The Administration's FY 1999 budget request included nearly \$144 million for Everglades restoration; including for the NPS: \$20 million for land acquisition in Everglades National Park, \$3 million for Big Cypress National Preserve land acquisition, and \$60 million for joint federal/state acquisitions elsewhere in the ecosystem; \$12 million to the park to support a special science and research initiative within the south Florida ecosystem; \$14 million toward completion of structural alterations to restore water flows into the northeast section of the park.
- The Everglades Construction Project, implemented in accordance with the 1994 Everglades Forever Act, consists of six large constructed wetlands, known as Stormwater Treatment Areas (STAs), that will receive 1.4 million acre-feet per year of stormwater runoff from the Everglades Agricultural Area, adjacent watersheds, and regulatory releases from Lake Okeechobee. The STAs will treat incoming water through naturally-occurring biological and physical processes to remove phosphorus. Water from the STAs will be used to improve water flow, timing, quantity and quality in the Everglades. Approximately 47,655 acres are needed to build the STAs. As of September 30, 1998, a total of 37,700 acres had been acquired by the SFWMD; 3,780 acres were acquired in FY 98. Operation of one STA began in December 1997, and construction commenced on three others in 1998.
- In FY 98, the State purchased 2,791 acres in STA-1E at a cost of \$26 million. Funding was provided as part of the Everglades Restoration Fund to assist the State of Florida to purchase lands located within the Everglades Agricultural Area, the Water Preserve Areas, and STA-1E.
- On June 11, 1998, President Clinton signed Executive Order 13089, directing federal agencies to protect and restore coral reefs in U.S., commonwealth and territorial waters, and to work in partnership with other nations to conserve and protect coral reefs worldwide. The order established the interagency U.S. Coral Reef Task Force, co-chaired by the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Commerce through the Administrator of NOAA. The Task Force held its first meeting at Biscayne National Park in October.
- Dry Tortugas National Park and the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary launched an interagency planning effort to protect sensitive Tortugas habitats. The Dry Tortugas National Park commercial services and visitor use plan will explore ways to protect resources while continuing to provide high quality visitor experiences in the unique setting of historic Fort Jefferson and the surrounding reefs. Tortugas 2000, a component of the Florida Keys marine zoning strategy, will establish an ecological reserve to protect biodiversity, maintain ecosystem integrity, and act as a reference site to help scientists discriminate between natural and induced changes to the Keys ecosystem. The agencies combined their initial scoping efforts to show the difference between the similar, but distinct, plans in a forum that encouraged strong public participation.

EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK AND THE GULF COAST CLUSTER

As part of the [year?] reorganization of the National Park Service, park system management is being approached along the lines of peer management teams. These teams address and resolve issues affecting the allocations of resources, personnel actions, and sharing of specialized expertise among members. This is in contrast to the traditional resolution of these issues from a higher level in the organization.

These management teams have been constituted Service-wide in various "clusters". These are generally along the lines of geographic proximity; a modified ecosystem approach to defining National Park System management. Everglades is a member of the Gulf Coast Cluster, which incorporates 21 NPS areas from the Caribbean to Louisiana.

THE GULF COAST CLUSTER

Big Cypress National Preserve
Biscayne National Park
Brices Crossroads National Battlefield Site
Buck Island Reef National Monument
Cane River Creole National Historical Park
Christiansted National Historic Site
De Soto National Memorial
Dry Tortugas National Park
Everglades National Park
Gulf Islands National Seashore
Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve
Natchez National Historical Park
Natchez Trace Parkway
New Orleans Jazz National Historical Park
Poverty Point National Monument
Salt River Bay National Historical Park
and Ecological Preserve
San Juan National Historic Site
Shiloh National Military Park
Tupelo National Battlefield
Vicksburg National Military Park
Virgin Islands National Park

COORDINATION AMONG SOUTH FLORIDA'S NATIONAL PARKS

Everglades, Biscayne and Dry Tortugas National Parks and Big Cypress National Preserve represent key core areas of the remaining ecosystem. The South Florida parks are in the vanguard of ecosystem restoration, since restoration is crucial in achieving and maintaining long term resource integrity within the parks. Representatives of the South Florida national parks are active participants in the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Working Group and its constituent subgroups, and in companion efforts of the State of Florida. The South Florida parks are therefore providing leadership and key input into technical, scientific, and public information aspects of ecosystem restoration.

Given their close geographic proximity and similar natural and cultural resources, the national parks and preserves of South Florida work together to improve efficiencies in their operations.

The superintendents form a board of directors to address issues, resources, or responsibilities of an overlapping nature, coordinate policy positions on these shared interests and issues, and to review operations at all levels to promote efficiency and reduce costs.



Big Cypress National Preserve and Biscayne National Park equipment and personnel to assist the park with the removal of storm damage and debris following Hurricane Georges, September 1998.

OTHER PARTNERSHIPS

Ecosystems do not stop at political boundaries; their mutually shared values and influences are felt in a wider context. Everglades National Park has actively responded to its broader role by fully exploring its ecosystem interests in the South Florida and Caribbean contexts.

LOCAL PUBLIC SCHOOLS

For the twenty-seventh year, the park worked with Miami-Dade, Broward, Monroe, and Collier and Lee County Public Schools to provide curriculum-based, on-site programs for 11,000 students. The annual "Envirothon", a scholastic competition in which teams of high school students test their knowledge of the Everglades and environmental issues, was jointly sponsored by the park and the school district.

FLORIDA KEYS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

Everglades National Park continues to have a close working relationship with the sanctuary. There is shared recognition of the mutual influences between park and sanctuary administration, including Florida Bay, associated water quality, the coral reef tract, operations and management.

The park is a formal participant in the sanctuary's Water Quality Steering Committee. The sanctuary is an active partner in the ecosystem restoration effort. The park continued its collaboration with the Sanctuary and the Environmental Protection Agency in the production of "Waterways". This half-hour show explores the natural resources and environmental issues of South Florida.

Tortugas 2000 planning effort proposes to create a marine ecological reserve in the westernmost area of the Sanctuary, near Dry Tortugas National Park. An extensive public scoping process was initiated in August, with public outreach achieved through newsletters, web sites, media interviews and series of five open houses. Substantial public input was received and will form the basis for the next phases of the projects. Press coverage was positive.

INTERNATIONAL

Everglades National Park is addressing increasing levels of interest and demand for participation in cooperative professional activities with national park/protected area, tourism, scientific, and regional planning and development interests of other nations. The park's recognized international significance under treaty and multinational agreements, and the unprecedented size, scope, and complexity of Everglades ecosystem restoration, have created an increased global interest in its management issues.

Geographically and culturally, the park's location makes it part of Miami's position as a gateway to Latin America and the Caribbean. Biogeographically, its significance as a subtropical coastal wetland and marine estuary means that its mission encompasses a shared heritage with other nations of the region, in terms of migratory avian and marine species, air and water quality, and impacts of tourism, immigration, and general development and stability of neighboring countries.

Everglades is the only property in the United States to have been formally recognized, under the three major designations, as having international significance. It is a World Heritage Site, a Wetland of International Significance, and a Biosphere Reserve. The park is managed according to U.S. law and jurisdiction, but the United States has voluntarily pledged to protect the site in perpetuity. These designations are a tremendous source of pride, as well as increased economic benefits from international tourism. The international community has agreed the Everglades are unique and superlative. Their loss would not only be a loss for all Americans, in whose care they are entrusted, but for all people who recognize that they are irreplaceable. Marjory Stoneman Douglas recognized the same



Park Botanist David Jones discusses exotic plants for a segment of the "Waterways" documentary program.

The National Park Service and the Sanctuary launched an interagency planning effort to protect sensitive resources in the Tortugas. The NPS initiated a process to develop a visitor use and commercial services plan for Dry Tortugas National Park that will identify the types and levels of visitor activities and services that are

consistent with protection of park resources and quality visitor experiences. The Sanctuary's

truth in 1947 when she wrote, *"There are no other Everglades in the world."*

In CY 1998, the park provided professional orientation and learning programs to over 180 foreign officials, in areas ranging from park management and specific operations interests, to ecosystem planning, restoration, and management. Notable visits included foreign military officers from 47 nations attending training at the U.S. Army War College and the U.S. State Department's Foreign Service Institute Senior Seminar; both groups learning from Everglades' example for potential application to environmental issues in other parts of the world.

World Heritage Managers' Council

In 1996, Everglades National Park hosted an initial meeting of the managers of U.S. World Heritage Sites. As one result, an NPS Council was formalized in order to better coordinate site management issues of common concern and to more effectively provide site management perspectives on the international program aspects of the World Heritage Convention. The Council has met three times and, among other projects, has produced a revised public information brochure on the World Heritage program.

Bahamas National Trust

Under the terms of the National Park Service/Bahamas National Trust Memorandum of Agreement, the park represented the Service at two meetings of the Trust Council and cooperated in two additional exchange activities:

- Everglades staff provided an intensive orientation program for the new Parks Officer of the Trust, Tim Bethel. His program provided opportunities for interaction with management and field staff from all divisions and discussion of policies and programs of potential interest for adaptation to the Bahamas national parks.
- Everglades identified three senior consultants (two retired NPS; one retired Parks Canada) who visited the Bahamas in December to develop a guideline and process for management planning at the Bahamas national parks. Following completion of their report, the consultants will return to the Bahamas and present their recommendations at a workshop for Trust staff and members and Government representatives.

Brazil

In October, 1997, the United States and Brazil, under the bilateral agreement "Common Agenda for the Environment", signed a joint declaration designating Everglades and the Brazilian Pantanal National Parks as "Partner Parks". The interior wetlands characteristics of both parks provide points of common interest and the opportunity to share techniques and approaches to resource conservation and park management.

Under USAID funding, the agreement provided for three exchanges in 1998. In June, a four member Brazilian policy level delegation visited the park and the south Florida region for a comprehensive orientation to park management and ecosystem issues, with special emphasis on partnerships and means of addressing ecotourism potential. In September, two Everglades staff (Chief Ranger and a law enforcement Ranger) visited the Pantanal and other areas of Brazil, where they conducted technical training in protection skills for park personnel. In November, two Brazilian interpretive specialists came to Everglades for one week to study techniques for design/production of interpretive publications. In the process, they developed a sample interpretive brochure in Portuguese for Pantanal National Park.

Coral Reef Protection

On June 11, 1998, the President signed Executive Order 13089 directing federal agencies to take actions to assist in protecting coral reefs, to fully consider the impacts of their actions on coral reefs, to further scientific research, including mapping and monitoring, and to undertake international initiatives for the same purposes. In October, the first meeting of the Coral Reef Task Force established under the Order met at Biscayne National Park. Everglades participated actively and, through its administrative responsibilities for Dry Tortugas National Park, will continue to be an active player in implementing the terms of the Order.

Utilizing its existing relationships with the Bahamas National Trust and contacts with World Heritage Site managers, Everglades will also pursue implementation of the Order's provisions with respect to international cooperation.

1998 PERFORMANCE AND RESULTS



This section of the annual report summarizes Everglades National Park's achievements in FY 1998. The park uses the principles of the 1993 Government Performance and Results Act in goal setting, work planning and reporting of results.

The park's mission goals describe the desired future conditions that would best fulfill the park purpose. They are broad descriptions expressed in terms of resource condition and visitor experience. Outcome-based, measurable long-term goals provide steps for achieving progress towards the mission goals over a five-year period.

MISSION GOAL I. RESTORATION, PRESERVATION AND PROTECTION OF PARK RESOURCES - *Everglades National Park is restored and protected in ways that allow natural processes, functions, cycles, and biota to be reestablished and maintained in perpetuity, and that allow archeological and historical resources to be appropriately preserved.*

- Through 2002, no recorded archaeological sites have deteriorated due to human activities and 75% of sites are in good condition.
- All Everglades NP and South Florida Parks' goals are reflected in the goals and plans of the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force and the Governor's Commission for a Sustainable South Florida.
- **By 2002:**
 - 100% of the museum collection is catalogued and meets national standards for storage and protection;
 - all formal management decisions incorporate data/analyses from the full range of natural and cultural resources and the social sciences;
 - the key causes of ecological decline in Florida Bay are determined and restoration efforts begun;
 - 1000 acres of the Hole-in-the Donut lands are restored;
 - 90% of melaleuca in East Everglades and 80% of localized exotic plants are eliminated;
 - the numbers of Cape Sable Seaside Sparrows show an increasing trend, the panther population is not decreasing in numbers from the 1997 level, manatee populations remain stable, crocodile populations continue to increase or remain stable, osprey populations are stable, and eagle populations are increasing;
- air quality in Everglades NP does not degrade from baseline conditions established in 1997.

MISSION GOAL II. HYDROLOGICAL RESTORATION - *Hydrological conditions within Everglades National Park and the South Florida ecosystem are characteristic of the natural ecosystem prior to Euro-American intervention, including water quality, quantity, distribution and timing.*

By 2002:

- 100% of pre-construction work is completed to begin redistribution of water deliveries from the C-111 basin to match predrainage volume/timing;
- develop Outstanding Florida Water (OFW) and Outstanding Natural Resource Waters (ONRW) water quality standards for all other parameters;
- 100% of pre-construction work is completed to begin redistribution of water deliveries into Northeast Shark Slough and inflows match predrainage volumes/timing.

MISSION GOAL III. THE VISITOR EXPERIENCE - *Visitors to Everglades National Park have the opportunity to experience the park's unique subtropical wilderness values.*

By 2002:

- 80% of park visitors are satisfied with appropriate park facilities, services, and recreational opportunities;
- 20% of facilities identified as needing structural repairs or not meeting code are made safe, sound and sanitary;
- 80% of park visitors are satisfied with opportunity to experience wilderness;
- all concession employees and Incidental Business Permit (IBP) holders who provide interpretive services will meet performance standards established by the park;
- 80% of park visitors are satisfied with the range and quality of concession services;
- incidents of visitor injury accidents will decrease by 10%;
- each Interpretive District will have at least one person on staff who can communicate orally and in writing in either Spanish, French or German;
- 60% of school children who attend park sponsored interpretive and educational programs will demonstrate knowledge of park resources and issues;
- 15% of employee housing classified as being in poor or fair condition in 1997, have been removed, replaced, or upgraded to good condition;
- all law enforcement, emergency medical services, and search and rescue functions will be provided 24 hours a day/365 days per year at established servicewide levels. Visitors have access to the full range of emergency and law enforcement services 24 hours a day.

MISSION GOAL IV. TRIBAL RELATIONS - *The Seminole and Miccosukee Tribes have the opportunity to exercise their existing tribal rights within Everglades National Park to the extent and in such manner that they do not conflict with the park purpose.*

By 2002:

- issues of mutual interest between the park and the Seminole and Miccosukee Tribes are resolved through cooperative and coordinated working relationships.

MISSION GOAL V. PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING AND SUPPORT - *The public understands and appreciates Everglades National Park and its role in the South Florida ecosystem and provides support in achieving the park purpose.*

By 2002:

- 60% of public use areas will have information on the park's significance and its role in the ecosystem;
- 60% of park visitors will have access to park and ecosystem information in their native languages. (Spanish, French and German designated as key languages). Each Interpretive District will have at least one staff person who can communicate orally and in writing in either Spanish, French or German;
- 60% of park visitors will have access to information about the human history and American Tribal cultures of the Everglades;
- all key decisions affecting sustainability of the South Florida Parks and the ecosystem are favorable as a result of public support of park goals.

MISSION GOAL VI. HUMAN RESOURCES - *Everglades National Park has a diverse, motivated, and professional workforce allowing it to be a responsive, efficient, safe, and accountable organization.*

- By 1999, all computer users will have compatible software and hardware in support of NPS standards and are trained in the NPS standard programs.
- Through 2002, 100% of employees' performance plans are linked to appropriate strategic and annual performance goals.

By 2002:

- 100% of permanent and term employees have essential competencies needs identified;
- the park's annual new hires reflect the overall diversity of the civilian labor force;
- reduce by 50% from the 1996 levels, the number and severity of lost time employee injuries;
- correspondence in hard copy and digital files pertaining to park programs are centralized.

I. RESTORATION, PRESERVATION AND PROTECTION OF NATURAL AND

Long Term Goal: Through 2002, no recorded archeological sites have deteriorated due to human activities and 75% of the sites are in good condition.

No further deterioration was observed at the recorded sites that were monitored during the year. An analysis of the percentage of sites in good condition is still pending. Training for field personnel to assess and investigate threats to archeological sites is a recurring need.

Achievements:

- 25% of the recorded sites in the Flamingo District were evaluated.
- 12 of 18 sites, listed as Priority I and II in the Gulf Coast District, were monitored.
- Gulf Coast District personnel designed and built a root door pig trap to remove exotic pigs from archeological sites.
- Monitored sites currently on NPS property in the East Everglades District; many pre-surveyed sites lie on lands within the legislative boundary, but not yet owned by NPS. Contacted Southeast Archeological Center to provide assistance with a survey of the district to identify and record sites.
- Two law enforcement field rangers received cultural resource protection training during Basic Police School at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center.
- On-the-job training was provided at the district level for all field protection rangers.

Long Term Goal: By 2002, 100% of the museum collection is catalogued and meets national standards for storage and protection.

The museum collection housed at Everglades National Park includes objects from the four south Florida national park areas. At the end of 1998, 127 objects from the combined areas needed to be catalogued.

Achievements:

- 1,570 natural history and 104 cultural records were catalogued for Everglades National Park.
- 675 natural history and 20 cultural records were catalogued for Dry Tortugas National Park.
- No natural history and one cultural record were catalogued for Biscayne National Park.

- A six carriage space saver unit was installed to provide archive storage in the park library.
- 4 scientific papers relating to museum-based research were accepted for publication.
- 109 research permits were issued.

Long Term Goal: Everglades and South Florida Parks goals are reflected in the goals, and plans of the South Florida Ecosystem Task Force/Working Group and Governor's Commission for a Sustainable South Florida and other ecosystem efforts.

Task Force/Working Group and Governor's Commission Coordination: The NPS maintains a leadership role in programs and planning for ecosystem restoration and public education about the ecosystem effort. The Superintendent is the NPS representative on the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force (SFERTF) and the Department of the Interior representative on the Governor's Commission for a Sustainable South Florida (GCSSF). The rapidly changing environment and proliferation of issues has made it difficult for park staff to meet commitments or needs for participation in ecosystem efforts. In order for the staffs of the South Florida Parks to continue to effectively represent the NPS on projects, teams and subgroups, the parks should analyze the situation and produce a strategic plan for participation in the ecosystem effort.

The GCSSF initiated efforts to expedite East Everglades land acquisition, resolve the 8½ Square Mile area issue, and complete the Modified Water Deliveries project. The South Florida Water Management District and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers recognize their responsibility to protect the South Florida Ecosystem. This was reflected in interagency cooperation to save the Cape Sable Seaside Sparrow, a decision to buy out the 8½ Square Mile area, and the draft C&SF Restudy report. Environmental groups support and advocate NPS positions regarding the Restudy, Modified Water Deliveries, C-111, Cape Sable Sparrow, East Everglades and 8½ Square Mile area land acquisition, and other issues.

General Management Planning: Escalation of higher priority external issues and demands on staff

CULTURAL RESOURCES

time halted progress on Everglades and Dry Tortugas NP planning in February 1998. A decision to defer Everglades planning allowed staff to focus on the Dry Tortugas Visitor Use and Commercial Services Plan, which proceeded in coordination with the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary's Tortugas 2000 planning process. Work on the Everglades Visitor Use and Commercial Services plan will resume when the Dry Tortugas project is nearly complete. Work continued on the Flamingo Developmental Concept Plan and Miccosukee Standards projects. Denver Service Center is reassessing its capability to support our planning due to loss of several key team members that could result in further schedule changes.

Social Science Coordination: The park, along with NOAA, the Working Group and its Science Coordination Team/Social Science Subgroup and the GCSSF, held a "Social Science Symposium: Building a Social Science Action Plan for South Florida" in February. The Symposium provided a forum to gather recommendations for developing an action plan for social science research and the application of this research into land management and ecosystem restoration project planning, implementation and monitoring. The Department of the Interior's Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Initiative program funded the Symposium and an upcoming Action Plan. Implementation of the Social Science Plan for the South Florida National Parks, completed in 1996, is contingent upon staffing and funding.

Adjacent Lands: The park has an evolving program to track, review and prepare comments on development proposals and permits with the potential to affect park resources and the visitor experience.

Achievements:

Task Force/Working Group and Governor's Commission Coordination

- The Superintendent and Chief of Ecosystem Planning/Coordination represented NPS and DOI in monthly meetings of SFERTF and GCSSF and numerous VIP briefings/tours regarding ecosystem restoration.
- Park staff provided monthly coordination and support activities for NPS and DOI participation in the SFERWG, GCSSF and related meetings.

- South Florida parks collaborated to develop NPS ecosystem restoration priorities and positions to assure that the NPS speaks with "one voice" on ecosystem issues.
- NPS concerns regarding ecosystem degradation and restoration goals were incorporated into SFERTF/WG and GCSSF plans and reports.
- Held monthly meetings with DOI agencies to coordinate goals, strategy and actions for the C&SF Restudy. DOI positions were articulated in USFWS Coordination Act reports and presentations to SFERTF/WG, GCSSF and agency officials. NPS positions are understood and supported by most SFERTF and GCSSF members.
- Meeting summaries of the SFERTF/WG and GCSSF were prepared and distributed to NPS staff, DOI land managers and legislative staffers.

General Management Planning

- Developed draft *South Florida Parks Coordinated Management Framework*. Final document due in second quarter FY 99.
- Conducted in-house workshops to draft management prescriptions for Everglades and Dry Tortugas National Parks.
- Conducted scoping phase of Dry Tortugas NP Visitor Use and Commercial Services Plan; extensive public outreach via newsletters, web site, and media interviews; held 5 NPS/FKNMS scoping open houses with participation by 250 people.

Social Science Coordination

- Held the "Social Science Symposium: Building a Social Science Action Plan for South Florida"; prepared and distributed draft proceedings from the Symposium.
- The Economic Impact Study of Federal Interest Lands in South Florida was completed under contract with the Joint Center for Environmental and Urban Problems.
- Conducted Visitor Use Surveys in August and September.

Adjacent Lands

- NPS is participating as a Cooperating Agency in the preparation of a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the transfer of Homestead Air Force Base. The final document is expected in late 1999; the NPS seeks a reuse compatible with the protection of Biscayne and Everglades National Parks.



Biological Technician John Kalafarski analyzes gamefish caught by anglers in park waters.

Long Term Goal: By 2002, all formal management decisions incorporate data/analyses from the full range of natural and cultural resources and the social sciences.

Achievements:

- The implementation of a new ORACLE database management system with databases containing reel census, benthic ecology, and wading bird information was completed and will become operational in 1999, allowing advanced and efficient data management and analysis.
- Completed 12-year evaluation of recreational fishing in park marine waters; snook and red drum catches have increased since the late 1980's, while gray snapper and sea trout show no trend.
- Completed the annual fisheries report assessing gamefish stocks in the park's marine and estuarine waters.

Long Term Goal: By 2002, the key causes of the ecological decline of Florida Bay are determined and restoration efforts begun.

The hurricanes of 1998, Georges and Mitch, caused only temporary effects in western Florida Bay that were highly visible in the days following the storms, but had no known significant effect.

An administrator was hired to oversee the day-to-day logistical operation of Florida Bay research and monitoring activities.

Achievements:

- The Model Evaluation Group held a workshop with Florida Bay modelers to ensure that models currently being developed are to be integrated with one another.
- Organized and participated in the 1998 Florida Bay Science Conference in Miami, attended by approximately 287 participants.
- Entered into cooperative agreements with:
 - University of South Carolina to reconstruct historic environmental conditions of Florida Bay by analyzing peat cores on Pigeon Key.
 - Florida International University to hire a Florida Bay Executive Officer to synthesize Florida Bay research and monitoring results.

- Organized a meeting and wrote a summary report on the ecological ramifications of Hurricane Georges on Florida Bay.
- Membership on the Technical Advisory Committees for Tortugas 2000 Working Group, Stormwater and Coastal Water Quality, and Wastewater.
- Completed a value analysis of the Florida Bay District (Key Largo) research facilities, increasing future logistical capabilities.

Long Term Goal: By 2002, 1000 acres of Hole-in-the-Donut lands are restored.

A major project to remove *schinus* (Brazilian pepper) from 6,000 acres of formerly farmed wetlands in the Hole-in-the-Donut has been underway since 1996. Funding comes from the Miami-Dade County Wetland Mitigation Bank to support direct mitigation and a research and monitoring program. A contract for the third year of the restoration project was issued in 1998. Disposition of the removed topsoil was the subject of an Environmental Assessment for which public review and comment has been completed.

Achievements:

- 285 acres of *schinus* were removed, bringing the total restored area to 705 acres.

PARTNERS IN SCIENCE

Florida Atlantic University
 Florida Department of Environmental Protection
 Florida International University
 Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council
 Louisiana State University
 Miami-Dade County Soil and Water
 National Audubon Society
 NOAA, National Marine Fisheries Service
 Seminole Tribe of Florida
 South Atlantic Fishery Management Council
 State and Federal Fisheries Information Network of
 Southeastern U.S.
 University of Florida
 University of Georgia
 University of Miami
 University of South Carolina
 University of SW Louisiana
 University of Tennessee
 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
 U.S. Geological Survey

Long Term Goal: By 2002, 90% of melaleuca in East Everglades and 80% of localized exotic plants are eliminated.

The park maintains an active, ongoing program of exotic plant removal or treatment.

Achievements:

- Over 7,000 acres of melaleuca were treated in the East Everglades.
- The U.S. Department of Agriculture undertook the first release of a melaleuca bio-control agent (a weevil) within the park.
- A total of 57,000 exotic plants, of 11 different species, were treated at 40 sites in the Florida Bay, Gulf Coast, and Pine Island Districts.

Long Term Goal: By 2002, the numbers of Cape Sable Seaside Sparrows shows an increasing trend, the panther population is not decreasing in numbers from the 1997 level, manatee populations remain stable, crocodile populations continue to increase or remain stable, osprey populations are stable, and eagle populations are increasing.

Attention was focused on the Cape Sable Seaside Sparrow when winter high water conditions imperiled the sparrow's breeding season in the western Shark Slough portion of its habitat. Emergency steps taken between January and April ensured the sparrow a reasonable breeding season. Non-stop negotiations prevented opening of the western S-12 structures. Placement of sandbags along the Shark Valley tram road restricted water flow into critical breeding areas. Still, sparrow populations showed little change from 1997 and the long-term trend is down.

The park participated in a statewide, aerial survey of West Indian manatees. Fifty-seven adults and 6 calves were noted within park boundaries. Three recovered manatees were released through a cooperative project with Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the Miami Seaquarium.

American crocodile populations are stable or slightly increasing. Field activities to monitor and count crocodile and turtle nests were facilitated through coordinated efforts by Visitor and Resource

Protection and South Florida Natural Resources Center personnel. Snail kites are also increasing in number.

The park aggressively enforces posted speed limits on park roads and no-wake zones on park waterways to protect species populations from injury and mortality as a result of visitor activities.

Wildland Fires for Resource Use Benefit (formerly termed Prescribed Natural Fires) and Prescribed Burns helped to maintain viable habitats for many species.

Achievements:

- Coordinated and staffed the placement and removal of over 1500 sand bags to restrict surface water flow into critical Cape Sable Seaside Sparrow breeding areas.
- Observed 15 crocodile nesting sites in the Flamingo District, compared to 17 in FY 97.
- Recorded 119 turtle nests in the Gulf Coast District, compared to 183 nests in FY 97 – decrease due to staffing shortages and fewer volunteers. Turtle nesting sites were not surveyed on a regular basis in the Flamingo District.
- Gulf Coast District achieved 99% conviction rate on wildlife incidents, with fines totalling \$12,450.
- 21 Wildland Fires for Resource Use Benefit occurred, totaling 2,837.5 acres.
- Conducted 9 Prescribed Burns totaling 2,842 acres.



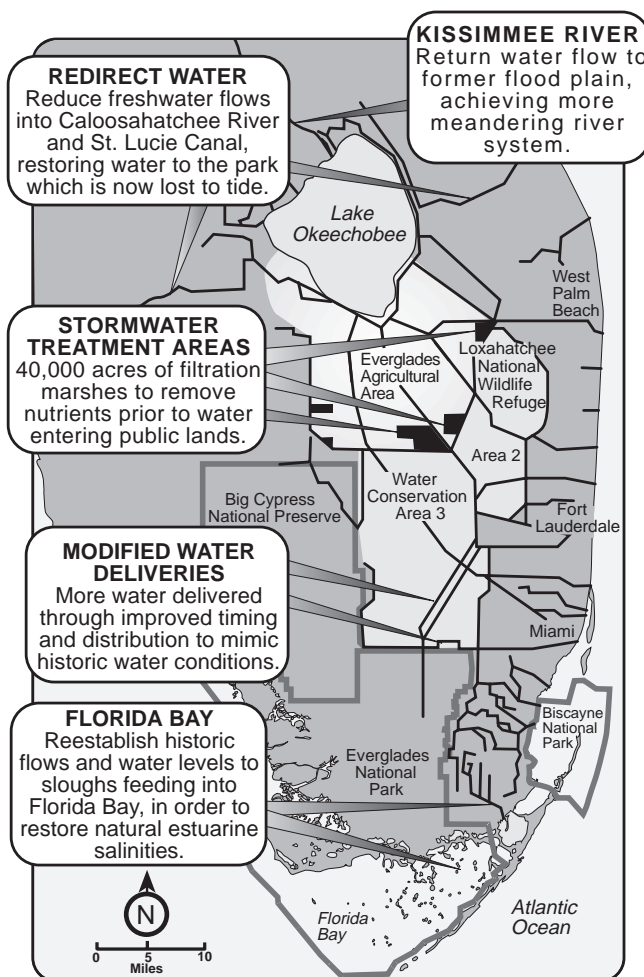
University of Florida scientist Dr. Frank Mazzotti weighs an American crocodile hatchling from Florida Bay.



Placement of 1,500 sandbags along the Shark Valley tram road restricted water flow into Cape Sable Seaside Sparrow nesting habitat.

II. HYDROLOGICAL RESTORATION

Planned projects to benefit the Everglades and South Florida.



The 1989 Everglades National Park Expansion Act added 109,492 acres of the critical eastern half of Shark River Slough to the park. The Act directed the Corps of Engineers to modify water management structures to allow the sheetflow of water and extend the hydroperiod to more closely resemble the historic Everglades. Restored water flow will bring immediate benefits to park plant and animal life and may be critical to the survival of the endangered wood stork and Cape Sable Seaside Sparrow.

The Modified Water Deliveries Project involves construction of alterations to the water management system at the park's northern boundary that could operate to bring immediate benefits to hydrological restoration of the Shark River Slough. By removing some existing structures and installing new features, the project will recreate a single functioning hydrologic system in four areas within and north of the expanded park boundaries that are currently separated.

Major water diversion structures for restoration of flows and levels are at, or near completion. State water quality permits are required for their operation, as well as completion of land acquisitions in affected areas. In addition to park lands, adjoining private lands in the 8½ Square Mile Area would be affected. Operation of the new water system cannot begin until land acquisitions within the expansion area are completed. To date, the federal government has acquired 19,000; 47,000 acres remain to be acquired. Acquisition of the remaining land is proceeding at an accelerated rate and could be completed by 2000 or 2001. In FY 98, \$26 million was allocated for East Everglades land acquisition; Congress has appropriated \$20 million for FY 99.

Critical issues surrounding survival of the Cape Sable Seaside Sparrow and limited options imposed by a record wet winter in 1997-98 heightened awareness of completing the project and beginning revised operations.

Long Term Goal: By 2002, 100% of pre-construction work is completed to begin redistribution of water deliveries from the C-111 basin to match pre-drainage volume/timing.

Achievements:

- A proposed surface water quality monitoring network was developed for the western C-111 basin.
- Completed permitting and agreements for work to begin on Taylor Slough Bridge construction. This project will improve natural sheet flow down Taylor Slough.

Long Term Goal: By 2002, develop Outstanding Florida Water (OFW) and Outstanding Natural Resource Waters (ONRW) water quality standards for all other parameters.

Achievements:

- Completed another year of monthly water quality sampling at the 9 interior marsh stations.
- Completed the South Florida estuarine water quality monitoring network report which assessed water quality in the estuarine waters of the park.

Long Term Goal: By 2002, 100% of pre-construction work is completed to begin redistribution of water deliveries into Northeast Shark Slough and inflows match pre-drainage volumes/timing.

Achievements:

- Modeled the hydrological and ecological requirements of the Cape Sable Seaside Sparrow in terms of redistribution of water deliveries into Shark Slough for the Section 7 Endangered Species consultation report.
- Completed a detailed hydrologic modeling analysis of the Preferred Alternative of the Central & South Florida Restudy.
- Completed the implementation of a new ORACLE database management system database containing hydrological information; this new database will become operational in 1999, and will allow advanced and efficient data management and analysis.



Restoring water flow to the park will bring immediate benefits to plant and animal life and may be critical to the survival of the endangered wood stork and Cape Sable Seaside Sparrow.

III. THE VISITOR EXPERIENCE

Long Term Goal: By 2002, 20% of facilities identified as needing structural repair or not meeting code are made safe, sound and sanitary.

The park has made progress towards accomplishing this goal but greater progress is required in order to meet the 2002 target. Much of the year's efforts to improve facilities were to keep them operational and not to remove all deficiencies. A special effort needs to be made to conduct a current condition assessment so that this long term goal can be accurately evaluated. More progress to upgrade deficient facilities is expected in FY 99 as the Fee Demo Program comes into full effect.

Whenever staffing and funding permitted, divisions and district management teams were able to address facility upgrades and safety concerns at the operational level. Improvement of facilities in the East Everglades District, especially at the Chekika day use area, was a priority for both the Interpretation and Visitor and Resource Protection Divisions. Minor rehabilitation of the Chekika contact station was initiated through inter-divisional and volunteer work efforts. FY 99 goals address enhancement of non-personal information and interpretive services in the day-use area and use of the contact station. Installation or upgrading of security systems was a priority at all fee collection stations.

The new Loop Road Environmental Education facility, a Fee Demo project, opened in March 1998. A community business donated \$1,000 in native landscape plants and materials.

The condition of visitor facilities in the Flamingo District continues to generate complaints.

The new Loop Road Environmental Education facility has received enthusiastic praise from teachers and community members.



APPROVED FEE DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS

Construct Loop Road Environmental Education facility
Rehabilitate boat launching ramps
Replace canoe launches at Bear Lake and Hells Bay
Cut back unsafe roadside vegetation
Rehabilitate Flamingo amphitheater
Replace roofing at the Flamingo Lodge facilities
Replace interpretive waysides parkwide
Replace Mahogany Hammock boardwalk
Clear Roadside vistas along Main Park Road
Rehabilitate nine public restrooms parkwide
Replace Bobcat boardwalk at Shark Valley
Rehabilitate West Lake boardwalk
Install elevator at Flamingo Visitor Center for accessibility

Achievements:

East Everglades District

- Installed 2 new footbridges on Chekika Hammock Trail.
- Planted native tree species in Chekika Campground, replacing those lost to Hurricane Andrew.
- Constructed parking and fire ring, installed new grills at Chekika Campground Group Site.
- Graded Chekika Campground access road graded and trimmed vegetation with assistance from park personnel, Eagle Scouts and volunteers.
- Installed new signs on Chekika access roads.
- Installed fire intrusion alarm in the Ranger Station.
- Replaced security gate at Chekika Entrance Station.

Flamingo District

- Completed rehabilitation of Loops B and C in Flamingo Campground.
- Began rehabilitation work on Loop A in Flamingo Campground.
- Repaired electrical service to Flamingo concession RV sites.
- Started contracted replacement of lodge roofs.
- Repaired fingerpiers on boat ramps.
- Replaced over 3,000 linear feet of gravity sewer lines.

Florida Bay District

- Completed Contract Documents for Reef Comber demolition.
- Rehabilitated Key Largo dock.

Gulf Coast District

- Implemented project to provide automated security for Ranger Station.
- Installed new roof on maintenance facility.

Pine Island District

- Accomplished additional hurricane proofing of the Pine Island Ranger Station.
- Completed Contract Document for dry lab at the Daniel Beard Center.

Shark Valley/Tamiami:

- Repaired lightning damaged security system at the Shark Valley Entrance Station.
- Completed and opened new Loop Road Environmental Education Center.



Maintenance workers prepare the amphitheater at the Long Pine Key Campground for winter programs.

As part of the Fee Demo Program, a new backcountry permit fee program was initiated in the Flamingo and Gulf Coast Districts. The permitting process gives staff the opportunity to increase awareness of wilderness ethics and the benefits of the Fee Demo Program.

Plans to expand runways at Miami International Airport and proposals to redevelop the former Homestead Air Force Base as a commercial airport have raised concerns about the impacts of overflight noise on park resources, visitor and the park soundscape. The National Park Service is participating as a cooperating agency in the preparation of a Supplemental Environmental

Long Term Goal: By 2002, 80% of park visitors are satisfied with opportunities to experience wilderness.

The park facilitated a 40-hour Wilderness Stewardship training course conducted by the Arthur Carhart National Wilderness Training Center (an interagency office of the National Park Service, US Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and the US Fish and Wildlife Service). Ten park employees, with wilderness management and education responsibilities, participated and gained a strengthened understanding of wilderness values, concepts and management issues. Six employees made presentations as part of the course.

Wilderness education efforts were successful and well received in FY 98. To remain successful, they must be maintained and broadened in scope and methods. One park interpreter participated in the "Leave No Trace" advanced wilderness education course; the knowledge obtained will enhance parkwide wilderness education efforts. The backcountry trip planner was revised and the information made available to the public in print and on the park's web site. The Marjory Stoneman Douglas Wilderness Area is now recognized on the revised park map and backcountry trip planner.

Impact Statement for the base. The NPS seeks a reuse compatible with protection of Everglades and Biscayne National Parks. Development of a conceptual approach to noise mitigation for Everglades and Biscayne National Parks has transitioned into an effort to develop a Noise Management Plan.

Large-scale clean-up projects, using park personnel, volunteers and cooperators, were coordinated in several districts. Thousands of pounds of debris, and other signs of human impact, were removed from the wilderness area; vegetation removal projects were undertaken to improve walking and canoe trails.

Achievements:

- Conducted 18 flight hours to monitor water levels for visitor access to wilderness areas.
- Issued 2,231 backcountry camping permits issued for park wilderness areas, overnight stays by visitors totaled 19,458.
- Conducted prescribed fires with few negative impacts, such as area closures, to visitors.
- Worked with NPS Overflight Coordinator, SERO, and DOI Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance to respond to the Draft EIS for Miami International Airport's proposal for a fourth runway.

Park Ranger Jonathan Holter leads a group of volunteers in a roadside cleanup project in the East Everglades District.



- Contracted with private firm to develop a noise profile of Everglades and Biscayne National Parks; sites were selected for monitoring. Acoustic Data report completed in May 1998.

East Everglades District:

- Removed 1 million pounds of debris from backcountry areas with assistance from volunteers and cooperators.
- Conducted aggressive anti-dumping patrols.
- Initiated tree hammock monitoring program.

Flamingo District:

- Cleared 12 miles of canoe trails and 19 miles of walking trails of downed and overgrown vegetation.
- Rehabilitated Canepatch and Cape Sable backcountry camping areas.

Tamiami/Shark Valley District:

- Initiated efforts to minimize vehicle use of the tram road and airboat activities in the area of the Shark Valley Tower.

Gulf Coast District:

- Restored the Kingston Key campsite.
- Marked 10 miles of boundary trail.
- Removed 3,400 pounds of trash during Coastal Cleanup.
- Removed 700 exotic trees from backcountry campsites
- Interpretive/education emphasis highlights wilderness education, and is tandem with backcountry use and exploration.

Long Term Goal: By 2002, all concession employees and Incidental Business Permit (IBP) holders (depending on size of operation) who provide interpretive services will meet performance standards established by the park.

The visitor experience is enhanced by concessioners and commercial permittees who understand and support park significance, purpose and goals. To achieve this, the park has begun developing standards for interpretive services provided by concessioners and IBP holders. Park planning efforts and goals were re-evaluated in May 1998 and the development of interpretive standards for non-park service representatives was put on hold. In FY 99, National Park Service interpretive standards will be adapted for non-NPS service providers.

Achievements:

- Developed 2-page information sheet for IBPs.
- Processed 204 applications for IBP's for recreational fishing guides.

Long Term Goal: By 2002, 80% of park visitors are satisfied with the range and quality of concession services.

The National Park Service contracts with three private concessioners to provide a variety of visitor services, including:

Everglades National Park Boat Tours at Everglades City - visitors may enjoy boat tours, canoe rentals and browsing the gift shop.

Flamingo Lodge, Marina and Outpost Resort - provides overnight lodging, food service, a marina, boat tours, boat, canoe or bicycle rentals and gift shop.

Shark Valley Tram Tours - offers an open-air tram tour through Everglades prairie, bicycle rentals, souvenirs and convenience items.

A new ten year contract prospectus for services at Everglades City has been completed. It has received technical sufficiency and regional solicitor review and is ready for the advertising process. A ten-year concessions contract for Shark Valley has been completed and is now in WASO for 60 day Congressional review.

Achievements:

- Prepared a 3-year contract for TW Recreational Services, Inc, allowing time to complete a planning charrette and a subsequent long term contract.
- Completed periodic evaluations of concessions, ensuring contract compliance for all concession contracts/permits.
- Continual review of all concession operations to ensure visitor satisfaction.
- Completed 3 contracts for concession permits with the South Florida Parks and Monuments Association and Everglades, Biscayne and Dry Tortugas National Parks.



Visitors can experience the park's backcountry waters aboard the "Everglades Queen", one of several boat tours offered in the park.

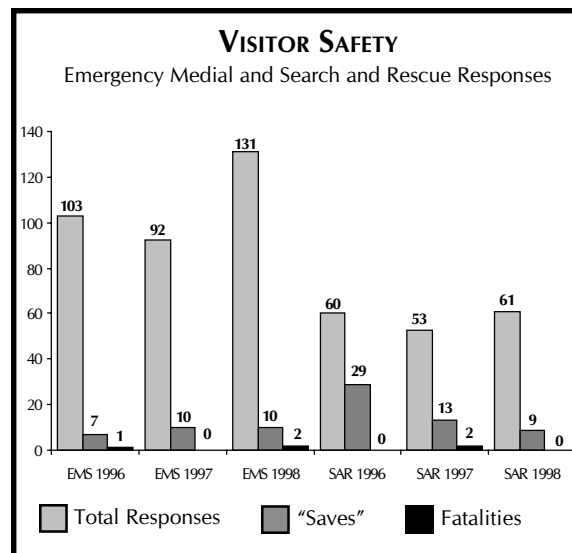
Long Term Goal: By 2002, incidents of visitor accidents will decrease by 10%.

The number of emergency medical incidents increased by 30% in CY 98. Increased visitation may have contributed in part. Boaters in distress, due to stormy weather during the winter months, accounted for most of the search and rescue incidents to which the park responded.

The park safety officer received copies of visitor accident reports, inspected all visitor use areas and reported findings to district staff and park managers. Accident reporting criteria and requirements vary from year to year and make it difficult to effectively track progress towards meeting this goal. Region-wide criteria and reporting requirements would be a great asset.

Achievements:

- Replacement of the Flamingo ambulance is the top equipment replacement priority.
- Reported road hazard conditions/follow-up report.
- Conducted visitor safety inspection in all districts and reported results.
- Completed parkwide hazard analysis
- Requested immediate repair/replacement of water boundary markers.



Long Term Goal: By 2002, 60% of school children who attend park sponsored interpretive and educational programs will demonstrate knowledge of park resources and issues.

The Environmental Education program continues to be a successful and well respected program. A cyclic review of all education materials to meet current curriculum standards maintains the high quality program.



In 1998, the park worked with schools in five counties to provide curriculum-based, on-site educational programs for 11,000 students.

Achievements:

- Involved local schools in the park's 50th Anniversary celebration.
- Presented curriculum-based education programs: 158 on-site day programs; 5 off-site programs at schools; and 41 residential/camping programs. Follow-up evaluations were provided by school teachers and administrators in Dade, Monroe, and Collier counties.
- Completed 13 teacher workshops for on/off-site programs..
- Reprinted 2,800 copies of the school visits book with cooperating association funds. Books were distributed to school teachers (1800); Biscayne NP (400); and new teacher induction (400).
- Rewrote 15 activity guides, and completed the Sandfly Island and Camping Guides, all with extensive teacher/staff review. K-3rd grade package is 75% complete.

Long Term Goal: By 2002, 15% of employee housing classified as being in poor or fair condition in 1997 have been removed, replaced, or upgraded to good condition.

Everglades National Park has 59 housing units, including single family residences and apartments. Many of the housing units were built in the 1950's and 1960's and have deteriorated as a result of little or no maintenance and termite infestations. The presence of lead-based paint and asbestos are added factors that significantly increase rehabilitation costs. Humid, summer weather requires off-season use of air conditioners in seasonal housing to reduce damage to appliances and furnishings. The park continues to address damages caused by Hurricane

Andrew in 1992. Damaged hurricane shutters are scheduled for replacement early in FY 99.

The park is making progress towards the achievement of this goal. A full-time housing officer manages the housing program. A maintenance position dedicated to housing repair and cyclic maintenance has been very successful in reducing the backlog of work requests. Partial or complete rehabilitation of housing units is undertaken as they become vacant.

Achievements:

- Everglades Housing Management Policy was completed, signed and distributed.
- Completed interior rehabilitation on 4 apartment units, including electrical upgrade, installation of thermal pane windows and exterior wall insulation, removal of asbestos floor materials, and kitchen/bath rehab.
- Completed partial interior rehabilitation on 3 apartment units, with removal of asbestos floor materials and kitchen rehab.
- Installed new roofs on two houses and installed exterior wall insulation in two other houses.
- The last travel trailer was removed from the park's inventory.
- Required occupancy was removed from two positions in accordance with the housing plan.

IV. TRIBAL RELATIONS

Long Term Goal: By 2002, issues of mutual interest between the park and the Seminole and Miccosukee Tribes are resolved through cooperative and coordinated working relationships.

Tribal representatives are full partners in the ecosystem restoration planning and coordination, as part of the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force, its Working Group, and the Governor's Commission for a Sustainable South Florida.

Since 1964, the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida have used and occupied 333.3 acres along the northern boundary of the park by special use permit. In 1998, Congress passed the Miccosukee Reserved Area Act. The new legislation, replacing the special use permit, gives the Tribe the right to live permanently and govern their own affairs on lands within the park. Park management staff were involved in high level negotiations throughout the legislative process to assure protection of park resources and allow for additional autonomy by the Miccosukee Tribe.

The park continues to have a cooperative working relationship with the Miccosukee Tribe in areas of mutual assistance and interest, including environmental education, law enforcement, emergency response and structural and wildfire training.

Achievements:

- Worked with the Miccosukee Tribe to develop and present curriculum-based environmental education programs to tribal children and staff.
- Completed the "People of the Everglades" exhibit for the Ernest F. Coe Visitor Center, which introduces park visitors to the American Indians of South Florida.
- Processed 10 deputizations for the Miccosukee Police
- Tamiami District assisted the Miccosukee Tribe with 6 mutual aid incidents.
- Reached agreement with the Miccosukee Tribe on the need to mechanically reduce wildland fuels adjacent to residences and facilities prior to prescribed burning.



Park Ranger Cheryl Mathews and a group of Miccosukee Indian students participate in an activity at the Loop Road Environmental Education Center.

V. PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING AND SUPPORT



Park Ranger Yvette Daniels answers visitor questions at the Ernest F. Coe Visitor Center

Long Term Goal: By 2002, 60% of public use areas will have information on the park's significance and its role in the ecosystem.

Visitor centers, with the exception of Flamingo, were operated by uniformed staff daily throughout the year. Flamingo was staffed during the peak visitation months,

December-April, only.

Field law enforcement rangers in the Pine Island, East Everglades and Tamiami Districts contacted 80-90% of visitors. In the Flamingo, Florida Bay and Gulf Coast Districts, each with greater numbers of backcountry visitors, 20-30% of all visitors were contacted. Equipment needs limited the ability of field personnel to make proactive public contacts in remote, outlying areas.

The park has an active volunteer program, particularly during the winter months. Volunteers work in all aspects of park operations, including administration, interpretation, maintenance, resource management and research. Many of the volunteers have worked at the park for more than 3 years.

Fee Demonstration Program: Through July 1998, \$1,565,076.85 in 80% funding generated by fee revenues had been received by the park. Approval was granted for 3 new fee demonstration programs: a parking fee at Shark Valley, dump station fees for campgrounds and program fees for special request interpretive programs.



Park Ranger Judy Hayes provides park information at an outdoor recreation fair in Naples, Florida.

All fee collection public contact stations were fully staffed for the year, except the Chekika Entrance, maximizing visitor contacts at park entrances. The ability to use fee revenue funding to cover the cost of collection enabled the park to address all operational needs at fee collection stations.

Achievements:

- Contacted approximately 600,000 visitors at park visitor centers.
- Contacted an estimated 94,000 visitors through interpretive programs. A full complement of interpretive programs, over 100 a week, were offered during the winter season; and approximately 20 a week during the summer season.
- Conducted over 70 off-site and over 30 on-site special programs, reaching more than 1,000 visitors.
- Initiated special community programs at the Coe Visitor Center; attendance was approximately 100 for 4 events.
- Provided interpretive support to the University of Idaho Cooperative Park Studies Unit to draft NPS implementation guidelines for the 1998 Visitor Card program.
- Completed NPS visitor survey in the park with interpretive staff
- Completed review of 6 critical issues wayside exhibits and are currently in production. Year-end analysis of waysides established wayside replacement priorities for FY '99.
- Replaced 2 waysides at Flamingo with fiberglass embedded duplicates.
- Completed final draft of park bulletin board plan; implementation planned in the first half of FY 99.
- Purchased new bulletin boards for Long Pine Key Campground.
- Revised park brochure includes new digital map, Marjory Stoneman Douglas Wilderness Area and other corrections.
- Distributed 300,000 park brochures in FY 98.
- Off-site exhibits: Spanish language exhibit completed and displayed in surrounding communities. Florida Bay exhibit completed and displayed at locations in the Florida Keys.
- Park newspaper is available to park visitors; 250,000 distributed in FY 98.

- Prepared Marjory Stoneman Douglas exhibit and brochure to support the special tribute event held in the park upon her death.
- Repaired and replaced interpretive props on park and South Florida ecosystem themes. Provided surplus or new props to community groups.
- Completed expanded web site, which has received over 100,000 "hits" to date.
- The web site was honored with the National Park Service's "Best of the Web" award.
- Achieved tracking and coordination of Florida Bay research efforts through participation in Florida Bay science workshops, two research workshops, attendance at the Everglades Coalition workshop, and individual contacts with approximately 120 NPS and cooperative researchers.
- Interpretive and park planning efforts supported the Flamingo comprehensive plan, Florida Bay design plan, Dry Tortugas commercial services plan, and preparation of Key West Interagency VC proposal.
- Initiated a review of accessible visitor programs and services in FY 98, to be completed in FY 99.
- Developed scope of work for Ernest F. Coe Visitor Center exhibit, repair, rehabilitation, and improvement; developed a bronze plaque honoring Ernest F. Coe to be placed at VC entrance.
- 141 volunteers contributed 21,062 hours in FY 98, valued at \$270,436.
- Implemented backcountry permit fee program, under Fee Demo Program.



Volunteers Carmen and Ralph Espinola serve as campground hosts at the Chekika campground.

- Contacted 20-30% of park users in the Flamingo, Florida Bay and Gulf Coast Districts.
- Florida Bay District rangers investigated 60 groundings, an increase of 20% from FY 97.
- Resumed staffing and operation of 2 park campgrounds as a result of changes in the NPS nationwide campground reservation system contract.

Long Term Goal: By 2002, 60% of non-English speaking visitors will have access to park and ecosystem information in their spoken languages.

During the winter season, the park achieved this goal for on-site visitors. Permanent and seasonal staff, and volunteers, provided language services in German, French, Spanish, Portuguese and American Sign Language.

The Chekika day-use area, largely visited by non-English speaking visitors, was staffed on weekends during the 1997-98 winter season. Interpretive contacts usually numbered less than 75 contacts for both days. This visitor service will be reevaluated for FY 99. Non-personal services and information will be enhanced and increased in FY 99.

In FY 99, the park will review efforts and methods to improve language services for off-site and independent contacts, such as improvements in print media and the park's web site. There is a need for a full color, Spanish language version of the park's brochure.

Achievements:

- The park's full color brochure is now available in German.
- Spanish language broad-casts now available on the Florida Bay Traveler's Information Station.
- Spanish-speaking staff presented multiple programs on Spanish language radio/television.
- Developed portable exhibit, in Spanish, for off-site use.
- Created a glossary of common birds with Spanish, French, and English translations.



Park Ranger Alan Scott maintains the Florida Bay Traveler's Information Station, which broadcasts in English and Spanish.

Long Term Goal: By 2002, 60% of park visitors will have access to information about the human history and American tribal cultures of the Everglades.

A working group of Everglades National Park and the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians representatives was established to create a visitor center exhibit on the people of the Everglades.

A project to assist the Miccosukee Tribe with rehabilitation of their cultural museum was cancelled due to loss of AmeriCorps program.

Achievements:

- Completed “People of the Everglades” exhibit for the Coe Visitor Center, which will increase information access to a minimum of 40% of park visitors.
- Park interpretive staff were introduced to the Miccosukee culture through a presentation by a tribal representative at a staff training session.

Long Term Goal: By 2002, all key decisions affecting sustainability of the South Florida parks and the ecosystem are favorable as a result of public support of park goals.

Presentation of the park and its positions were handled in a manner consistent with policies and reflecting well on the park and its image. Press coverage was generally positive and balanced. Factual, issue-oriented information is available to the public through visitor programs, publications and services.

Local community relations continued to benefit from new attitudes developed during the 50th anniversary events. Active liaison with elected officials, community leaders and groups, and partner organizations was developed and maintained throughout the year by park employees, in all divisions and at all levels. Park managers and staff participated in a variety of outreach programs, community meetings and public workshops.

Achievements:

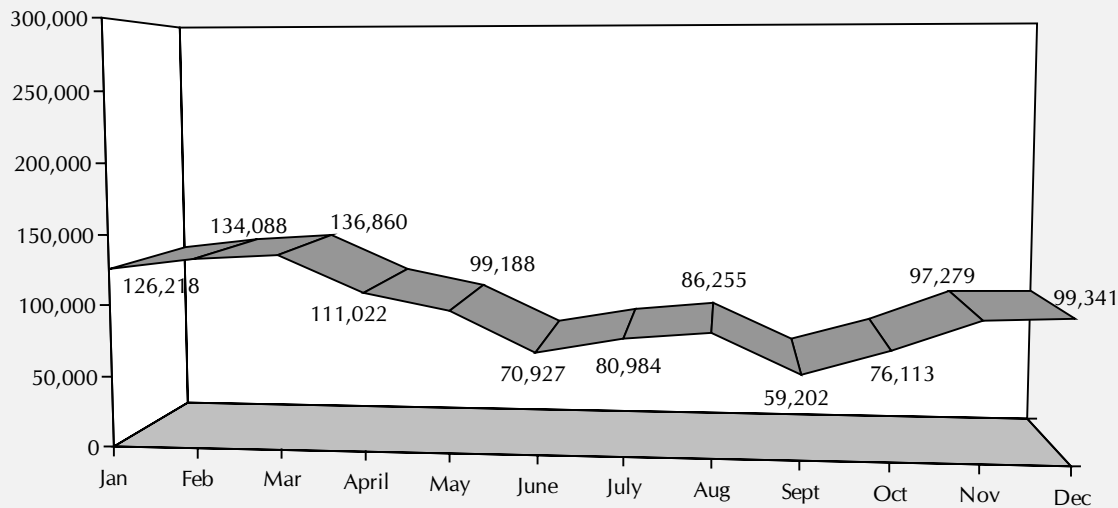
- Media contacts reached millions of interested individuals — many who may never visit the park.
- Successfully planned and managed special events, programs, and dignitary site visits, including the park’s 50th anniversary celebration and memorial to Marjory Stoneman Douglas.
- Twenty-nine segments of “Waterways” focused on NPS and ecosystem issues; “Waterways” funding was used to produce the first of five planned minimum impact boating video series.
- Co-facilitated, with NOAA and Sea Grant, 3 minimum impact boater education workshops, which will lead to development of a boater education program.
- Developed a joint NPS/Sea Grant newsletter; however, distribution was delayed pending finalization of a Memorandum of Understanding.
- Fire Management participated in 32 fire-related mutual aid incidents in accordance with local and statewide Memorandums of Understanding and with the Southern Area/National Mobilization Guides.
- Park EMS coordinator completed Memorandums of Understanding for Emergency Medical Services; final approval pending.



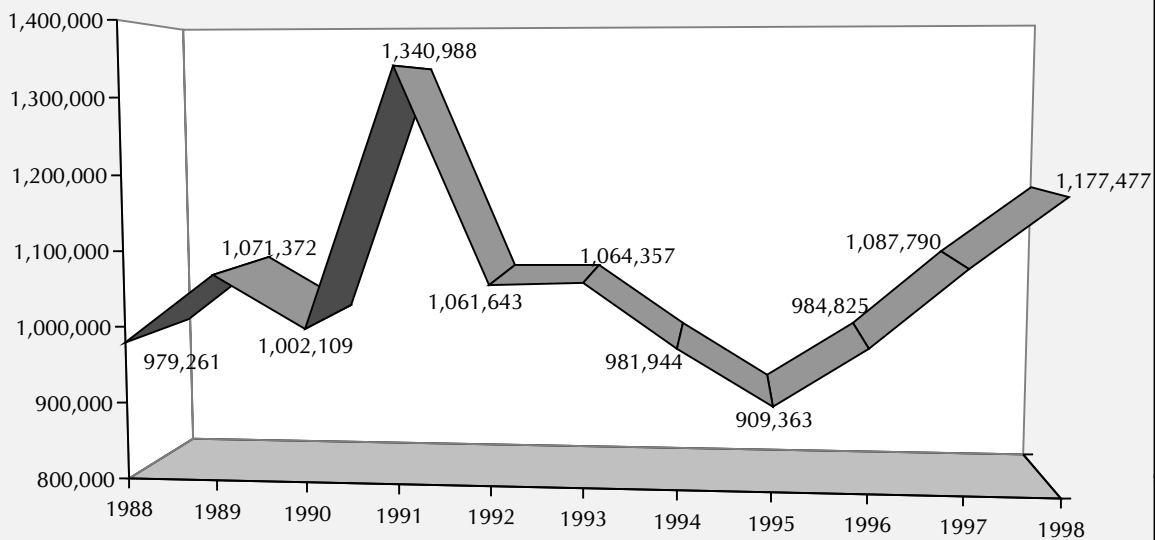
Park firefighters respond to a wildland fire in the East Everglades.

VISITATION STATISTICS

1998 MONTHLY VISITATION



*Totals include recreational and non-recreational visits

10 YEAR VISITATION
1988-1998

*The park's highest visitation occurred in 1972 with 1,773,302 visitors

VI. HUMAN RESOURCES

Long Term Goal: By 1999, all computer users have compatible software and hardware in support of NPS standards and users are trained in the NPS standard programs.

The NPS's new software standard, Microsoft Office Suite, went into effect in FY 98. Bringing the park into compliance requires replacement or upgrading of 112 personal computers and software packages. In addition, the park's present server has exceeded it's life cycle and no longer meets storage and processing needs. New Intranet ware and NT servers to meet electronic mail and processing requirements will cost an estimated \$140,000.

Locating training sources, purchasing training materials and providing on-site training for employees in MS Office is ongoing. Some local training has been provided to employees through their divisions or districts. A coordinated, parkwide training effort needs to be established to ensure that all employees obtain the same level of competence in the NPS standard software.

A full time information management staff maintains the network system, administers cc:mail and provides day-to-day support of computer systems throughout the park.in

Achievements:

- Purchased approximately 35 new PC's, replacing all 286 PC's, representing replacement of 21% of the inventory. Another 75 PC's (386's/486's) require replacement in FY 99 at a cost of \$154,000.

- Purchased 2 copies of MS Office software for each division.
- Obtained CD ROM and Video based MS Office learning tutorials; made available to staff through the park training office.
- Employees participated in MS Office training sponsored in the park by the Southeast Regional Office.
- Completed draft Information Management Plan, to provide direction to park managers and staff on information management issues. Review and revision is pending.

Long Term Goal: By 2002: 100% of permanent and term employees have essential competencies needs identified.

Essential competencies are defined as the knowledge, skills and abilities required for an employee to perform their jobs at the entry, developmental and full performance levels. Essential competencies and training needs have been established at a service-wide level for many NPS career fields, but not for all.

There is a park-wide need to provide supervisory training and new employee orientation to meet selective competencies. Due to other priorities and workloads in the Administrative and Personnel Offices, a training course for supervisors was not held in FY 98; it has been reprogrammed for FY 99.

At the end of FY 98, 80% of Visitor and Resource Protection Division employees were fully certified to perform law enforcement, 90% were certified in emergency medical services and 60% were certified for structural firefighting.

Achievements:

- Provided in-park training for certification of Visitor and Resource Protection personnel in emergency medical services (EMS), wildland and structural fire, including:
 - Level II Structural Fire Training course certifying personnel for structural fire response;
 - 1 EMS refresher; First Responder training was substituted for Emergency Medical Technician refresher training as a result of funding constraints.



NPS firefighters listen to an instructor in a classroom training session.

- 5 Protection rangers obtained Level I law enforcement commissions after successfully completing the 10-week Basic Police School at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center.
- Provided 40-hour law enforcement refresher training through local community college criminal justice department courses.
- Fire Management maintained Incident Command System (ICS) qualifications database and facilitated all ICS training for park employees to maintain currency.
- All Communications Center Dispatchers received certified state training as Dispatch Recorders.
- Submitted a minimum of 10 employee (permanent/ seasonal) packages to Mather Employee Development Center for certification in interpretive competencies.
- Pine Island Subdistrict Interpreter active in service-wide training competencies.
- Six interpretive supervisors attended an Interpretive Competencies for Supervisors training, held in South Florida in June 1998.

Long Term Goal: Through 2002, 100% of employees' performance plans are linked to appropriate strategic and annual performance goals.

This activity has not been monitored for compliance; although supervisory personnel are required to develop Employee Performance Plans incorporating appropriate GPRA goals.

Long Term Goal: By 2002, the park's annual new hires reflect the overall diversity of the civilian labor force.

Recruitment of quality, diversified employees is a high priority for the National Park Service and for Everglades National Park. The Service has been asked to broaden recruitment efforts to increase representation of underrepresented groups within the Service's workforce to better reflect the civilian labor force.

Because traditional recruitment methods have not successfully resulted in diverse applicant pools, the South Florida parks have prepared a draft Targeted Recruitment Plan. The plan outlines manager's and supervisor's responsibilities in recruiting for a diverse workforce and provides tools for accomplishing this goal.

Achievements:

- Draft Targeted Recruitment Plan has been completed and distributed.
- Surpassed 25% increase in diversity hiring for seasonal positions as mandated by NPS Director.
- 22% increase in diversity hiring for permanent positions.
- Park staff actively participated in 9 job/career fairs, six of which were minority colleges and universities.
- Issued 59 local vacancy announcements and submitted 42 OPM recruitment requests.
- Continued the use of a local database, with 300-500 names, to match applicants to potential vacancies.
- All interpretive supervisors, and 100% of permanent interpreters, have been enrolled in or have completed the self-study course, "EO in the Federal Government".

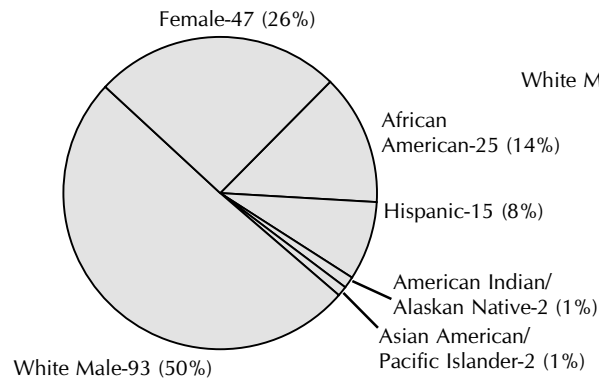


Seasonal employees Shawna Zillges and Michelle Busbee register campers at the Flamingo campground.

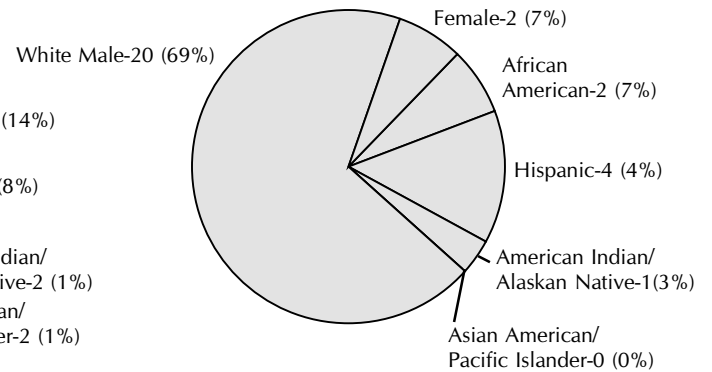
WORKFORCE PROFILES

WORKFORCE DIVERSITY

Permanent Employees



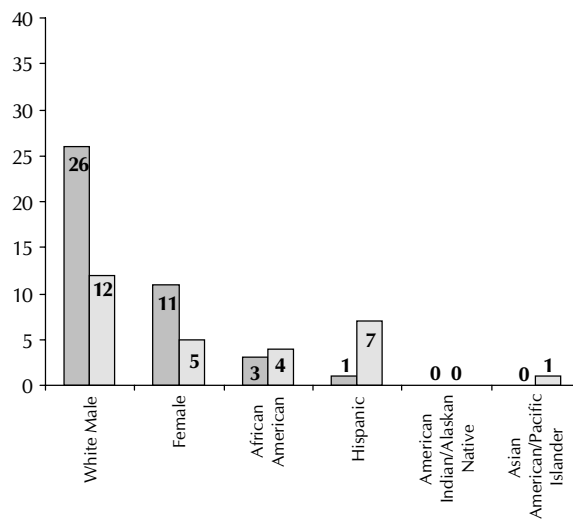
Non-Permanent Employees



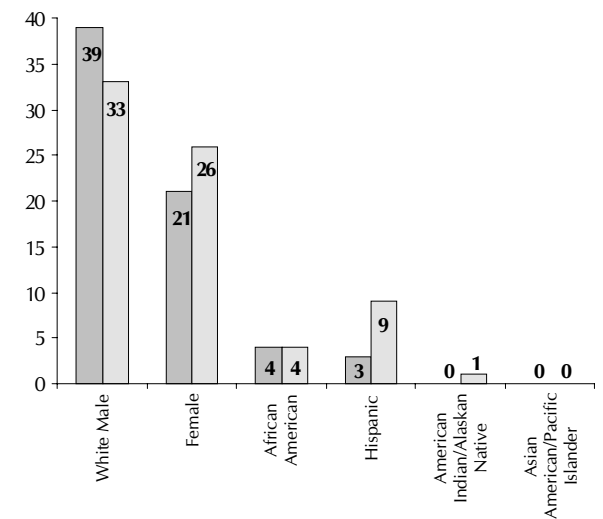
HIRING STATISTICS

FY 97 and FY 98

Permanent Employees



Non-Permanent Employees



FY 97 FY 98

Long Term Goal: By 2002, reduce by 50% from the 1996 levels, the number and severity of lost time employee injuries.

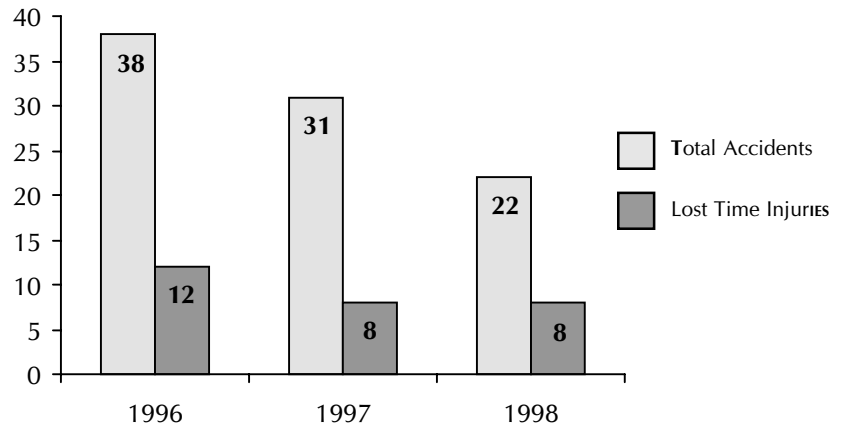
The park exceeded this goal in FY 98. Proactive efforts with regard to occupational health and safety, including health screening and examinations, physical fitness training and testing, and safety training, resulted in a reduction of employee lost-time injuries.

The statistics on employee injuries are kept in the personnel office and reported to the park safety officer. In addition, all employee accidents are required to be reported directly to the Regional Office.

Achievements:

- Employee accidents reported to park management on a bi-weekly basis
- Completed hazard analysis report
- Completed OSHA Inspection, and follow-up inspection, in all districts.
- Initiated Park Safety Committee
- Obtained or provided safety training for park staff in the following areas: Hazardous Materials, safety awareness, back safety, and Motorboat Operator Certification..
- Completed accident analysis of all lost time accidents with recommendations to park management.
- Initiated hazardous material policy/program.
- Initiated hazard communication program.
- Removed about 20 barrels of unknown materials from park.
- Required follow-up on all injuries/unsafe acts through Job Safety Analyses.
- Requested immediate repair/changes to chlorine systems.
- Conducted 5 Boards of Review for lost-time accidents.
- Fire Management was one of the first national programs to implement the pack test conversion; tested over 120 individuals during the year.
- Achieved a marked in the number of poisonwood cases resulting from wildland fire suppression/prescribed fire activities.

EMPLOYEE SAFETY 1995-1998



Long Term Goal: By 2002, correspondence in hard copy and digital files pertaining to park programs are centralized.

The filing for central files is 98 % complete with less than one box of files remaining to be filed; no significant backlog exists. Currently there are files that require transfer to the Federal Records Center.

Training for the incumbent mail and file clerk and a review of park file procedures are needed to ensure that all divisions are submitting copies for central files. Completion of this activity is expected in early FY99.

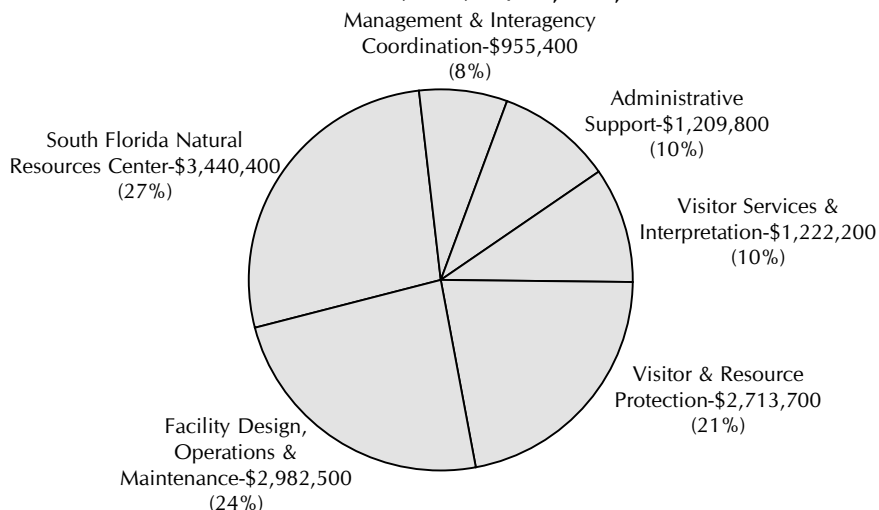
A preliminary assessment of the park's needs for storage of electronic documents has been completed. A review of options and cost estimates is planned during 1999.



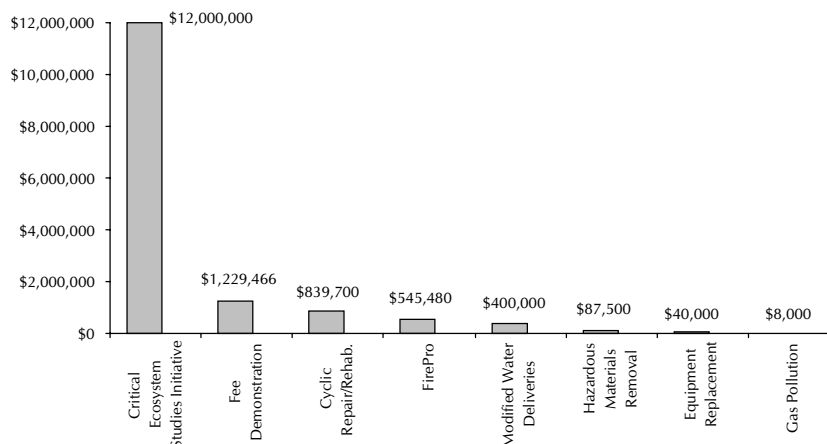
Park maintenance employees participate in a safety training session about working with hazardous materials.

FY 1998 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

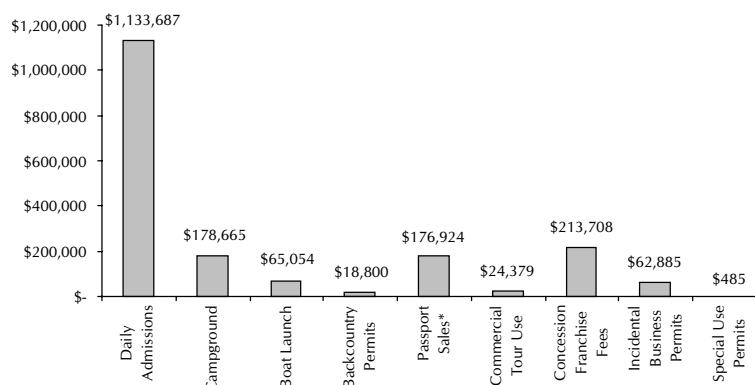
OPERATING BUDGET BASE ALLOCATIONS (ONPS) - \$12,524,000



FUNDING FOR SPECIAL INITIATIVES & PROGRAMS (OTHER THAN ONPS)



PARK FEES & COMMERCIAL SERVICES REVENUES



*Total sales of Everglades NP Annual Passports, and Golden Eagle and Golden Age Passports

Budget and Fiscal branch staff provided park-wide support in all areas of budget and fiscal responsibility, including budget tracking, reporting, travel. FY 1998 close out was successful, with less than \$1,000 left outstanding. **Contracting and Property Management** branch staff provided park-wide support in the procurement of supplies and services and the management of personal property.

Achievements:

- Provided 6 status of funds on budgets totaling over \$32,262,900.
- Hired Budget Analyst to track and reconcile the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force and Critical Ecosystem Studies Initiative budgets of \$20,000,000 for FY 97, 98, and continuing through 2002.
- Implemented 2 AFSII System Program updates and provided technical support to 6 park divisions and offices.
- Issued 12 program authorizations.
- Reviewed and audited 966 travel authorizations and reimbursement vouchers.
- Processed 10 permanent changes of station.
- Paid approximately 220 utility bills monthly.
- Submitted 12 imprest fund reimbursement vouchers.
- Issued 64 bills for collection.
- Contracted for new travel management service.
- Assisted in the development, installation and training of the computerized remittance program at 7 fee collection areas; total fees collected: \$1,597,509.
- Issued contracts in the amount of \$2,880,584, cooperative agreements in the amount of \$11,618,601 and \$ 2,769,967 for all other acquisitions.
- Completed, on time, annual property inventories of 5,288 items valued at \$8,922,951.

ECONOMIC VALUE OF EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

In South Florida, a healthy environment means jobs for thousands people in an economy that depends overwhelmingly on tourism.

The park uses the Money Generation Model (MGM) to provide current information about the role of the park in the regional economy. The MGM uses standard visitor statistics collected by the park and extrapolates direct sales benefits, tax benefits, and job benefits. These figures illustrate the economic benefits directly attributable to Everglades National Park during 1998:

Sales Benefits.....	\$131,519,619
Increased Tax Revenue.....	\$8,548,775
New Jobs Created.....	5,261

In addition, the visitor services and facilities provided by the three park concessions and the Incidental Business Permittees (IBP's) are economically important, as these figures indicate:

Concession Gross Receipts.....	\$8,100,000
People Employed by Concessions.....	310
IBP Gross Receipts.....	\$4,100,000
People Employed by IBP's.....	380



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
National Park Service
Everglades National Park
and
Dry Tortugas National Park
40001 State Road 9336
Homestead, Florida 33034-6733

